

April 17, 2003

**Public Notice for Section 401 Water Quality Certification  
for  
Bussman Ranch Farm Pond Rehabilitation  
WDID No. 1B03061WNHU**

**Humboldt County**

On March 21, 2003, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Peter Bussman requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification for the Bussman Ranch Farm Pond Rehabilitation located in Humboldt County, California. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Mad River Slough in the Mad River Hydrologic Unit No. 109.00.

The proposed project involves the excavation of approximately 1,400 cubic yards of soil and creation of a contour levee averaging two feet in height and 500 feet in width. Two new crossings of drainage ditches will be created to control water and to retain access to other lands for agricultural purposes. Two stoplog risers will be installed to allow the landowner to control the flow of water within the project area. The disturbed area and new levee will be planted and mulched to reduce erosion and siltation immediately after completion of earthworks and installation of structures. Willow and alder cuttings will be planted, following completion of the project. The area will be fenced to control grazing pressure. All work will be completed in accordance the Natural Resources Conservation Service Practice Specifications.

This project will not result in a permanent loss of wetlands. Approximately three acres will be temporarily impacted by this project.

Compensatory mitigation is not required for this project. Noncompensatory mitigation measures include the use of BMPs for erosion, sedimentation, and accidental spills.

The Bussman Ranch Farm Pond Rehabilitation is scheduled to begin in August or September of 2003 and will be complete by October 15, 2003. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341). In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Dayna Lieberman at (707) 576-6712, or at [liebd@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:liebd@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov) within 21 days of the posting of this notice.